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**REMARKS**

**JAN 25 2007**

Claims 1-9 are pending in the instant application. Claims 4-6, 8 and 9 are withdrawn.

Applicant herein amends all of the claims under consideration (1-3 and 7) in order to present the claimed invention in better form. No amendments are made in response to the cited art.

Applicant also adds new claim 10. Support for the new claim can be found at FIG. 3 of the disclosure and related text, *inter alia*.

Claims 1-3 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious in view of Takechi, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0,171,446 alone or in combination with De Wolf et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,772,595, and/or Hirofumi, JP 63-082377. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of the claims.

**Takechi, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0,171,446 ("Takechi")**

In its Abstract, at FIGS. 1, 2 and 8 and at paragraphs 27 and 28, Takechi discloses an IC tester including a driver integrated with a load current output circuit 29 that functions as both a driver applying a predetermined test waveform to a predetermined terminal of a device under test 25 and as a load current output circuit for judging a response waveform received from the DUT 25.

The Takechi IC tester includes pin electronics 200 that include an output resistor 23 and a comparator 21. An I/O control signal operates a switch SW1 internal to the driver 29.

**De Wolf et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,772,595 ("De Wolf")**

In its Abstract, at FIG. 1 and at col. 4, lines 4-43, De Wolf discloses a current-sensing circuit tester w/ drivers 16, 18, 20 and switches 22, 24, 26. A device under test 28 has terminals 28a, 28b and 28c. The switches apply the signals at the drivers to the terminals and/or apply the signals at the terminals to output detector buffers 30, 32, 34.

**The Claimed Invention Distinguished from the Cited Art**

Notably neither Takechi nor De Wolf uses the word "impress" (or its conjugates). Then, of course, neither Takechi nor De Wolf uses the phrase "voltage-impressed." Accordingly, neither Takechi nor De Wolf nor their combination teaches or discloses a "*voltage-impressed current measuring apparatus*" as recited in all of the claims.

Neither Takechi nor De Wolf nor their combination teaches or discloses "*impressing a prescribed voltage*" as recited in all of the claims.

Neither Takechi nor De Wolf nor their combination teaches or discloses "*a potential difference measuring means, measuring, as a value corresponding to the current flowing in the load apparatus due to the impression of the direct-current voltage on the load apparatus, a potential difference*" as recited in all of the claims.

Neither Takechi nor De Wolf nor their combination teaches or discloses "*an operational amplifier ... which is controlled by feedback of the voltage impressed on the load apparatus*" as recited in Claims 2, 3 and 7.

Assuming, *arguendo*, that the driver 29 is the series connection recited, neither Takechi nor De Wolf nor their combination teaches or discloses a "*a plurality of series connections*" as recited in all of the claims.

Where Takechi and De Wolf do not teach or disclose "*a plurality of series connections*," neither Takechi nor De Wolf nor their combination can teach or disclose multiple "*current measurement resistances having] different resistance values*" as recited in all of the claims.

Where Takechi and De Wolf do not teach or disclose "*a plurality of series connections*," neither Takechi nor De Wolf nor their combination can teach or disclose a "*control signal select[ing] any one of the series connections to switch the current measurement range*" as recited in all of the claims.

Where Takechi and De Wolf do not teach or disclose "*a plurality of series connections*," neither Takechi nor De Wolf nor their combination can teach or disclose "*the control signal select[ing] any one of the plurality of series connections*" as recited in all of the claims.

Further, where Takechi and De Wolf do not teach or disclose "*a plurality of series connections*" and "*select[ing] any one of the plurality of series connections*," neither Takechi nor De Wolf nor their combination can teach or disclose "*a direct-current power supply portion ... supplying ... voltage to the load apparatus through the selected series connection*" as recited in all of the claims.

Where Takechi and De Wolf do not teach or disclose "*a plurality of series connections*" and "*select[ing] any one of the plurality of series connections*," neither Takechi nor De Wolf nor their combination can teach or disclose "*a potential difference measuring means, measuring ... a potential difference between the input side and the output side of the selected series connection*" as recited in all of the claims.

Even assuming *arguendo* that Takechi's driver 29 is the claimed series connection, Takechi does not teach or disclose with its comparator 21 the "*potential difference measuring means, measuring ... a potential difference between the input side and the output side of the selected series connection*" as recited in all of the claims.

Notably, Takechi does not use the word "range" (except once in the boilerplate ending the description). Where De Wolf uses the word range in the context of current, it does so only to passingly state that current is within the unchangeable range of a buffer 32. Accordingly, Takechi does not teach or disclose "*a current-range switching portion*" as recited in all of the claims.

The De Wolf buffers 16, 18, 20 and switches 2, 24, 26 are not the claimed series connections. De Wolf does not associate any resistance associate with any of the buffers 16, 18, 20. Accordingly, neither Takechi nor De Wolf nor their combination teaches or discloses "*a series connection[] comprising current buffer with a switch connected in series with a current measurement resistance*" as recited in all of the claims — let alone the "*plurality of series connections*" recited in all of the claims.

Neither Takechi nor De Wolf nor their combination teaches or discloses that "*the current measurement resistances have different resistance values*" as recited in all of the claims.

Neither Takechi nor De Wolf nor their combination teaches or discloses the connections of the resistances as recited in all of the claims.

Neither Takechi nor De Wolf nor their combination teaches or discloses a "*control signal select[ing] any one of the series connections to switch the current measurement range*" as recited in all of the claims.

Where Takechi and De Wolf do not teach or disclose "*a plurality of series connections*," neither Takechi nor De Wolf nor their combination can teach or disclose "*the control signal select[ing] any one of the plurality of series connections*" as recited in all of the claims.

Further, where Takechi and De Wolf do not teach or disclose "*a plurality of series connections*" and "*select[ing] any one of the plurality of series connections*," neither Takechi nor De Wolf nor their combination can teach or disclose "*a direct-current power supply portion ... supplying ... voltage to the load apparatus through the selected series connection*" as recited in all of the claims.

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Where Takechi and De Wolf do not teach or disclose "a plurality of series connections" and "select[ing] any one of the plurality of series connections," neither Takechi nor De Wolf nor their combination can teach or disclose "*a potential difference measuring means, measuring ... a potential difference between the input side and the output side of the selected series connection*" as recited in all of the claims.

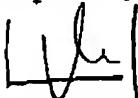
Neither Takechi nor De Wolf nor their combination teaches or discloses that "*the output sides of the plurality of series connections connect to a single terminal of a device under test*" as recited in Claim 10.

Finally, Applicant notes that Takechi and De Wolf are different arts. There is no motivation to combine them.

#### CONCLUSION

Applicant amends the application and request reconsideration in view of the discussion set forth above.

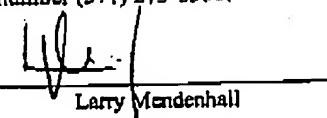
Respectfully submitted,



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